# **PASS**port Program



City of Asheville's Transit pass program for Employers & Universities.

Financial & Environmental savings for Employers and Employees

## **Current Participants:**

- UNC Asheville
- Grove Park Inn
- City of Asheville
- Buncombe County

Benefits to Employers: employee transit benefit at low-cost, reduce parking demand, increase transportation equity, and reduces transportation costs.

Benefits to Employees: diversify transportation options, reduces transportation costs.

**Benefits to Community:** improve transit services, attracts new riders, and improves sustainability.



**To qualify:** An employer should have over 50 employees, be within City limits and provide employees an employer I.D.

**Cost:** Employer is invoiced quarterly, at a reduced rate, based on employee ridership. City provides maximum per year cost based on estimated ridership

## How to get started:

- A. Contact City
- **B.** The City will provide employer a quote based on the number of employees and the employees home addresses.
- **C.** City will provide a maximum expenditure quote based on: 5% of employees with ½ mile of a transit route at \$.49/ride at 10 riders per week per year.

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City of Asheville
Transportation Department
iride@ashevillenc.gov
(828) 259-5943
City Hall, PO Box 7148
Asheville, NC 28802
www.ridetheart.com

#### More resources for employers:

- US Federal tax code (IR Code Section 132(f)) enables employers to:
  - Pay for commuting expenses for transit, vanpool, parking, and biking
  - Allow employees to set aside income on pre-tax basis to cover transportation costs, like a 401 (K).
  - Share the cost, with the employer providing a pre-determined subsidy and the employee electing a pretax deduction up to the monthly maximum.





- www.bestworkplaces.org Provides employers with support for the development of transportation programs/services and qualifying members with national recognition.
- www.sharetheridenc.org Carpooling Match service.
- Bicycle or pedestrian resources: ibike@asheville,gov or iwalk@ashevillenc.gov



#### **About ART**

ART (Asheville Redefines Transit) provides bus service throughout the City of Asheville and to the Town of Black Mountain with 16 bus routes running generally from 5:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Routes originate from the ART Station, located at 49 Coxe Avenue in downtown Asheville (next to the U.S. Post Office).

- All buses have bike racks.
- All buses are ADA compliant with wheelchair lifts.
- To plan your trip, check out GoogleMaps feature on our website; <u>www.ridetheart.com</u>.
- Check out our New Buses; 7
   Hybrids and 7 clean diesels.